From: Alex Pirie
To: Maura Mendoza; Irma Flores
Subject: Greater Boston Health and Law Immigrant Solidarity Network
Date: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 10:20:04 AM

Hi, below are the notes from the initial, 2/27, meeting of this group – mostly health care providers from CHA and BMC with some lawyers and community groups, organized by a CHA PCP, Lara Jirmanus. I thought it might be of interest to all to see what others are working on and Lara OK'd the general distribution of the minutes if you wanted to put it out on our list. I reported on this meeting last Friday, could add a few details from the minutes, if you want.

I've been leaving messages and sending e-mails to Gladys, but still haven't connected.

Alex

Alex Pirie
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"I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired."
Fannie Lou Hamer, 1917-1977

From: Lara Jirmanus [mailto:lara.jirmanus@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 5:37 PM
To: Alex Pirie
Subject: Re: 2/27 Minutes from Community Immigrant Solidarity Meeting

Yes certainly!

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 6, 2017, at 16:21, Alex Pirie <Apirie@SomervilleCDC.org> wrote:

> Hi, Lara –
>
> Would it be appropriate/OK to share the notes (excellent!) with Somerville's Sanctuary City taskforce group?
>
> Alex
>
> **Alex Pirie**
> **Coordinator, Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health**
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From: gbhlisn@googlegroups.com [mailto:gbhlisn@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** lara jirmanus
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 5:58 PM
To: Greater Boston Health & Law Immigrant Solidarity Network
Subject: 2/27 Minutes from Community Immigrant Solidarity Meeting

Hi everyone,

Please, find below the meeting minutes from the 2/27 Meeting. Thanks to Laura Wagner and Laura Janneck for excellent notetaking! The group is now called Greater Boston Health and Law Immigrant Solidarity Network, to distinguish it from other networks which are developing across the city, such as the Immigrant Ally Network, which is even broader. Looking forward to more conversations like these and very happy to share some resources - links in the email below, as well as in another upcoming post.

One note on the political conversations as we move forward. This is a solidarity group, and as such, we must follow the direction of the immigrant community. I look forward to thinking together about ways we can stand with immigrants moving forward, letting those voices lead the way.

Please, fill in gaps if we have missed anything in minutes below!

In solidarity,
Lara

Community Immigrant Solidarity Mtg
Feb 27, 2017 14 Beacon St

Facilitator: Lara Jirmanus (CHA/EBNHC)
Note takers: Laura Wagner (UU Mass Action), Laura Janneck (CHA)

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. What are we doing
3. What can we do to collaborate better
4. Breakout groups
5. Report back/Next steps
6. Announcements

1. **Intros, dyads & group**

Organizations Represented:

Irish International Immigrant Center
Boston Medical Center (BMC - Child Psych, Child Witness to Violence, OB/Gyn) Chelsea Collaborative
Healthcare for the Homeless
Muslim Justice League
Boston Law Advocates
Public Defenders
ACLU
PHR
MIRA
Health Law Advocacy Group
Cambridge Community Learning Center
Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network
Health Leads
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Clinicians for Healthy Families
Brockton Tenant Association
Committee on American Islamic Relations (CAIR-MA)
Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA - Windsor St Health Center, ED, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine)
SEIU 32BJ
UNITE HERE Local 26
National Lawyers Guild
Transition House, DV
Boston Interpreters Collaborative
Jobs with Justice
Justice at Work
Fair Work
East Boston Health Center
Boston Public Schools
Metrowest Legal Services (Framingham and Brockton)
Sanctuary Churches
Lynn Community Health Center
Neighbors United for a Better East Boston
Cosecha
Boston Liberation Health Group
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)

2. **<u>What's happening already:</u>**

Irish Immigrant International Center: Boston, direct support services, free legal clinics, advocacy immigrants & refugees

Metrowest Legal Services in Framingham/Brockton: KYR trainings in Framingham and Brockton, Medical/Legal partnership with Health services

PAIR Project, AILA (American Immigration Lawyers Association) are organizing
KYR trainings for health providers and in communities throughout New England.

- KYR trainings include information on family law, family preparedness plan in case of deportation and steps for custodianship.
- Email Courtney csnegroff@pairproject.org to schedule a training for community members.
- Email Amanda Ekey aekey@pairproject.org to schedule a training for healthcare providers at your health center/hospital.

Also offers service for those imprisoned and in detention

BMC Child Witness to Violence program preparing plans/aids for custodianship and other supports in cases of special needs children and children who have suffered emotional trauma.

Campaign for Legal aid fund for immigration - the "Immigrant Justice Initiative" is trying to push for the right to counsel for all in detention for immigration, a universal representation like public defenders for criminal law. Emerging project. Seeking to create a fund to support the work. No website yet

National Lawyers Guild (NLG): KYR trainings, Free clinics on immigration law. Reach out to areas where there is a concentration of people who are immigrants. The NLG National Immigration project - law suits, resources to immigrants in all areas of immigration law

Mass. Against HP: Organizing a boycott of HP - they make software that supports ICE, and also that supports the Israeli military occupation of Palestine and the wall.

Chelsea Collaborative: Rapid response network development. If anyone wants, they have a toolkit they are happy to share. Working with Unaccompanied minors. 463 families, target of new policies. Many have TPS (temporary protective status) and DACA status.
--On March 18, need 70 volunteers for a door knocking campaign to reach immigrant families who are feeling afraid and isolated with 2,000 newsletters. Email yesseniaa@chelseacollab.org to volunteer.
--They are also encouraging eligible people to apply for citizenship

Another rapid response network is being created in Boston as well.

Sanctuary churches are organizing to create an "above ground railroad" for

immigrants, may need volunteer doctors to visit patients in sanctuary

El Planeta newspaper is willing to print newsletters to share information with immigrants, and will cover printing costs. Gladys Vega knows more about this. gladysv@chelseacollab.org

Immigrant Service Providers Groups Community based organization municipal task force in Somerville. Feel duplication of efforts may exist - how to address this?

Health Leads - connects people to community resources. Considering a mobile app (beta now). There is also Help Steps (in Boston) and Mass 211, dialing 211 from a landline, can help people find public services. The aim from Health Leads is to create a website with access to all of the resources for immigrants

Refugeography is a website in development with a map including refugee related resources: www.tinyurl.com/refugeography

Justice Center Brockton Legal services - weekly outreach, health center - how to do outreach. A good example of medical legal partnerships to follow.

Boston Interpreters Collaborative: training bilingual services/ providing volunteer interpreters for community events.

Health Law Advocates: Provides direct legal services for access to healthcare or insurance coverage of heatlh care. Next meeting of the Immigrant Health Access Network is on March 13th at 3:00 Pm, RSVP to Andrew (acohen@hla-inc.org) if interested. Trying to counter fear which prevents people from getting the care they need? Want to work with institutions to promote access to care instead of tamp down access to care.

Muslim Justice League: provides KYR training, educate about Joint task force on terrorism, FBI

Cambridge Health Alliance:
-Had KYR training for providers
-interest in better communication between legal and medical workers
-pushing an institutional statement in support of immigrants

Lynn Community Health Center:
Thinking of doing a roving KYR training in patient waiting areas, but trying to figure out what is acceptable? What can nonlawyers do. Testimony of some days in Lynn when health center is empty because of panic caused by a rumored ICE presence.

Safe Communities Act: Support the Massachusetts Safe Communities Act (https://malegislature.gov/Bills/190/SD1596) - a bill which was proposed to state legislature Feb 1, 2017. Link to Facebook page here (https://www.facebook.com/MASafeCommunitiesAct/)

The act would:

- Ensure no state support for a Muslim registry.
- Ensures Basic Due Process Rights for people detained in state and local facilities for civil immigration violations.
- Ensures that state, local and campus police don't participate in immigration enforcement activities, including inquiries, investigations, raids, arrests or detentions that are based solely on immigration status.
- Prohibits agreements with DHS that deputize local officers as immigration agents.

Sanctuary Restaurants (http://sanctuaryrestaurants.org/presente-signup/?akid=1579.380650.vyTP88&rd=1&t=1)
Centro Presente and United for a Fair Economy are building a list of Sanctuary Restaurants that offer support and resources to workers, restaurants and consumers who have a zero tolerance for sexism, racism and xenophobia. Right now just an online form.

Send a letter to our patients. BMC may have just done this, but waiting for official word of approval of a formal letter to patients about immigration at BMC. Clinics and hospitals should encourage their administrations to issue public statements to patients stating their commitment to all regardless of status and the protections of health information. The New York public hospitals issued a letter is a good example of something that health institutions can issue: links to translations in over 10 major languages (http://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/immigrant/)

Distribute Know Your Rights cards - some individuals are distributing the know your rights cards to patients in clinics and community members. The cards can be handed to an ICE officer by a person, even if they don't speak English, exercising their rights to remain silent.
https://www.aclu.org/feature/know-your-rights-discrimination-against-immigrants-and-muslims?redirect=feature/know-your-rights-immigration#immigration
https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-enforcement/everyone-has-certain-basic-rights/

Questions/Answers:

Q: Does Safe Communities bill protect health data? Is health data protected?
HIPAA protects people regardless of status, so yes, hospitals should not be sharing health data with immigration. ACA also had some privacy protections. If repealed through reconciliation, this won't change.

Q: Can homes or hospitals or churches be sanctuaries?

A: Sanctuary, means different things at different times. Needs to be defined more clearly.

Q: Is sensitive location memo rescinded? (There was a memo that states that immigration officials will not enter sensitive locations, such as schools, places of worship, hospitals and political rallies)
https://www.ice.gov/ero/enforcement/sensitive-loc

A. No, the executive order did not rescind sensitive location protections against ICE raids in places of worship, political rallies, hospitals churches. This has been specifically clarified by DHS, but could still happen, as it is only a memo. Memos are the priorities of the agencies, not law.

Q: Can homes be sanctuaries?

A. Private homes, you need a warrant to enter - a judicially signed warrant. This is needed in order for the warrant to be valid. Sometimes ICE officers will enter homes with a generic warrant not signed by a judge and people don't know and open the door. However, if there is a warrant, you have to open the door.

Q: What is the plan for ICE check-in appointments? Should allies try to accompany people to their ICE check ins?

A. Still unclear whether we are advising allies to accompany immigrants to their ICE check in appointments.

Q: Was ICE checking people on the MBTA?

A. No those were MBTA police or in some cases TSA searching people?

Q. Do we have to submit to their search?

B. No you do not have to submit to the search without a warrant of your belongings.

3. What more can we do to be collaborating better

We are beginning to hear from affiliates nationwide about Mental health problems in kids and the elderly. Heard this from Mata Hari, SIM, need for culturally competent mental health services

Need to prepare for workplace raids. Justice at work is working on rights of workers/immigrant workers in the workplace and would like to connect with occupational health departments

Multiplying both resources and engaging frontline people (medical professionals, etc) who have expressed interest to become involved

Example of medical/legal partnership. Can be done on the phone, eg. Bi-weekly call with clinicians and lawyers. Medical Clinicians can consult with lawyers about issues their patients are facing

Legal issues for patients. What about medical issues of people who are afraid to come in? Do the patients know we are a safe place? Outreach to those who

no-show for appts

What happens to folks when they enter courts, etc - utilizing and organizing support network. Organizing in vulnerable communities

Mental Health - know people who are doing psychological assessment, etc. sometimes crimes have been committed, but these are associated with their MH status. Understanding the complexity of the case. Collaboration between lawyers and medical providers are needed

Medical and legal support important, but this is primarily a political battle

May 1, Day without immigrants - Cosecha is organizing, trying to build different teams. One is workers: create a network of supporters, and support people who didn't go to work on feb 16 and were fired for participating in a strike that day. www.lahuelga.com

Consider Telehealth as an option for patients who can't come into clinic

Social workers had a positive experience in Brockton, working collaboratively with other professionals and immigrants rights leaders

Pay attention to stress of MH providers, medical providers - working with families

Many providers do not have a clue about what is happening to their immigrant patients. Clinicians need to reach out to the their colleagues and educate them. Facebook page, events

We need to have a rally in support of immigrant community

We need to work with elected officials

Impact of Real ID Act, establishing national federal ID standard, which will be required when boarding commercial flights. Concern that this will pose a problem for immigrants in Massachusetts, especially as immigrants cannot legally obtain a driver's license in MA

Suggestion: create a spreadsheet, 1) what we do 2) what we need

ACLU is conducting trainings about how to tell the difference between ICE agents and TSA or others.

4. Breakout Groups:

A. Mental Health
B. Political Advocacy

C. Collaboration between medical and legal
D. Know Your Rights Training
E. Collective and Disseminating Information

A. Mental Health: Connection to resources, access to services. The Boston Liberation health group will be collecting resources. See website:

www.bostonliberationhealth.org

B. Political:

- How do our groups come together and support each other?
- May 1st strike is one way.
- Legislation, we should leverage hospitals political clout. Hospitals and medical providers are major employers.
- Dr.'s talking about what they're seeing, lobby day, writing ops eds, etc.

C.Medical / Legal:

- Workshops & trainings, KYR, legal services, access to medical services.
- Also talk about how to work together - lawyers & medical providers, collaborate on medical evals - share evals with lawyers and develop workflows to facilitate communication
- Important to create a campaign - contact all medical providers.
- Public statements from clinics commitment to immigrant patients. Ask them to display, make visible in several languages "all people are welcome, info will not be shared."
- within our communities, look for partners, build partnerships & medical/legal partnerships

D. Resources:

- Stay tuned as this group will be soliciting people on this list to share detailed information regarding available resources on a spreadsheet (what resources exists, what is needed)
- They will also create a listserv for events, share needs among group.
- Health Leads platform may be a good resource
- Events Calendar

E. KYR Group: KYR presentation offered by PAIR. Lawyers providing info/presentations to community. Challenge of providers in providing info. Risk in people exercising their rights. Higher risk for people of Color and those who are undocumented.

5. Meeting eval:
Lots of good energy and good people
Primary critique - need bigger space

6. Next meeting - TBA

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